(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Extension of railway upto Agartala

1750. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any provision has been made in the Eighth Five Year Plan for extension of railway upto Agartala;

(b) whether the necessary survey works for this extension have been completed; and

(c) if so, by when railway extension upto Agartala is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) No new railway line project to be taken up in the VIII Plan has been identified. Final Location Survey for extension on the railway line to Agartala has been take up. It cannot, therefore, be stated, at this stage, as to when the project would be completed.

Air India proposal to purchase airbus 340 aircraft

1751. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in "The Times of India" on the 10th July, 1989, to the effect that Air India is negotiating for the purchase of the futuristic, wide-bodied jetliner Airbus 340;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what amount of funds has been allocated for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) The integrated fleet plan is under consideration of the Air India Board which has appointed a Committee to evaluate different aircraft types and submit recommendations to the Board. The Board Committee has held negotiations with aircraft manufacturers including M/s. Airbus Industries; and

(c) The estimated cost of Rs. 1800 crores for acquiring 12 aircraft is proposed to be met out of commercial borrowings from Internatsonal Finance Market.

Decline in the Shipping Tonnage

1752. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the country's shipping tonnage, at the end of the Sixth Five Year Plan, expected to be at the end of Seventh Five Year Plan and as on the 30th June, 1989;

(b) what are the reasons for decline in the tonnage, if any; and

(c) what remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Tonnage at the end of the Sixth Five Year Plan: 6.3 MGRT.

Expected tonnage at the end of Seventh Five Year Plan: 6.00 MGRT and tonnage as on 30th June, 1989 : 35.74 MGRT.

(b) The reasons for the slight decline in tonnage are, among others, the recessionary conditions prevailing in the shipping industry up to the year 1987 and the scrapping of a large number of old vessels in the Indian fleet.

(c) Steps taken by the Government to increase the tonnage are:—

(i) Speeding up the Acquisition procedures;

(ii) Liberalisation of the acquisition norms;

(iii) Allowing shipowners to place orders on Indian Shipyards without reference to assessed requirements;

(iv) Providing cargo support to Indian Shipping;

(v) Modification of *pari-passu* abligations;

(vi) Rehabilitation of sick but viable shipping companies.

(vii) During April, 1987 to 30th June, 1989 Private Companies have been given approvals to acquire 135 ships out of which 37 ships have been acquired.

(viii) Shipping Corporation of India has currently on order 15 ships aggregating to 5.03 lakh DWT either for itself or on behalf of other Government agencies.

(ix) A specialised financing institution viz. Shipping Credit & Investment Company of India (SCICI) has been formed to provide finance for ship acquisition by private companies.

Acquisition of ships

1753. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on account of severe foreign exchange crisis no new acquisition of ships is being allowed by Government at present; and

(b) the additional shipping tonnage proposed to be acquired during the Eighth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) This will be known when the 8th Five Year Plan is finally approved.

मध्य प्रदेश में मीटर रेल लाइन का बड़ी रेल लाइन में परिवर्तन

1754. **श्रीमती रत्न कुमारी:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) मध्य प्रदेश में कौन-कौन से क्षेत्रों में मीटर रेल लाइन को बड़ी रेल लाइन में बदलने का कार्य चल रहा है; और

(ख) क्या सारा कार्य निर्धारित कार्यक्रम के अनुरूप चल रहा है?

रेल मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री माधवराव सिंधिया): (क) और (ख) मध्य प्रदेश में मीटर लाइन को बड़ी लाइन में बदलने के लिए कोई नई परियोजनाएं नहीं हैं।

गंज बासोदा पर रुकने वाली अप और डाउन रेलगाड़ियां

1755. **श्री अशोक नाथ वर्मा:** क्या रेलमंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) मध्य रेलवे के "गंज बासोदा" रेलवे स्टेशन पर रुकने वाली अप और डाउन रेलगाड़ियों के नाम क्या-क्या हैं और प्रत्येक रेलगाड़ी में इस शहर के लिए आरक्षण का कितना कोटा है; और

(ख) क्या बम्बई और दिल्ली जाने वाले यात्रियों के लिए आरक्षण कोटे में वृद्धि किए जाने का कोई प्रस्ताव है और यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है?

रेल मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री माधवराव सिंधिया): (क) गंज बासोदा पर ठहरने वाली अप और डाउन गाड़ियों के नाम और प्रत्येक गाड़ी में किये गये आरक्षण कोटे की व्यवस्था को दर्शाने वाला एक विवरण संलग्न है (नीचे देखिये)।

(ख) फिलहाल ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।